

Senate Bill No. 2104

CHAPTER 698

An act to add Section 8570.5 to the Government Code, relating to agricultural disasters, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 25, 2000. Filed
with Secretary of State September 27, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2104, Morrow. Agricultural disasters.

The California Emergency Services Act requires the Governor to develop and coordinate implementation of the state emergency plan and those programs necessary for the mitigation of the effects of an emergency in this state.

This bill would require the Office of Emergency Services to develop and adopt by January 2002 a guidance document to the state emergency plan that would specify the response of the state and its political subdivisions to agriculture-related disasters.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 8570.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

8570.5. The Office of Emergency Services shall develop a guidance document to the state emergency plan to specify the response of the state and its political subdivisions to agriculture-related disasters. This document shall be completed by January 2002 and shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(a) The roles and responsibilities of the county agricultural commissioners.

(b) The roles and responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and other relevant state agencies that are involved in the response to agriculture-related disasters.

(c) Coordination of initial and ongoing crop damage assessments.

(d) Disaster assistance between the time of the request for a federal disaster declaration and issuance of a federal declaration.

(e) State assistance available if a requested federal declaration is not issued.

(f) State assistance under a United States Department of Agriculture designation rather than a federal declaration.

(g) State assistance for long-term unemployment in areas with high unemployment rates prior to an emergency.

(h) Provision for the removal and elimination of extraordinary numbers of dead livestock for purposes of protecting public health and safety.

(i) Strategies to assist in the development of an integrated and coordinated response by community-based organizations to the victims of agriculture-related disasters.

(j) Procedures for the decontamination of individuals who have been or may have been exposed to hazardous materials, which may vary depending on the hazards posed by a particular hazardous material. The report shall specify that individuals shall be assisted in a humanitarian manner.

(k) Integration of various local and state emergency response plans, including, but not limited to, plans that relate to hazardous materials, oil spills, public health emergencies, and general disasters.

SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order that farmers affected by natural or quarantine disasters may receive the benefits of this act at the earliest possible time, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.

